

**Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life, held 20 January 1995, 10:00 a.m. in the Hall Building, Room 771.**

**Present:** Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Mr. B. Counihan; Mr. H. Zarins; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. R. Côté; Ms. D. Cooper; Ms. C. Fortier; Dr. G. Alfred; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. D. Leib; Ms. J. Murray; Mr. M. Cambridge; Dr. I.M. Barlow; Dr. R. Bonin; Ms. L. Lipscombe; Mr. B. Smart; Mr. C. Macdonald; J. Chegrinec, secretary.

**Absent with regrets:** Mr. D. Elison; Mr. S. Zacharias; Ms. A. Robinson; Mr. R. King; Mr. D. Bobker; Ms. K. Hedrich.

**Guests:** Ms. C. Vouzan representing Student Accounts.

1. Approval of the Agenda: Mr. Counihan requested that under item #8 b) Other Business, CCSL Awards be added. With this addition, on a motion by Mr. Counihan and seconded by Mr. Leib, the agenda was approved.
2. Remarks from the Chair: The Chair commented briefly on the success of the Student Services Festival, indicating that Ms. Kerby would be reporting in more detail in her presentation to Council. An update on the review process was given; and the Chair was pleased to report that the Review Committee now has its full complement of student representatives. The committee has met with individual directors to review their self-appraisal dossiers. The committee has established two-member teams who have been given their own departments to evaluate. These teams will go into the departments and, after meeting with the Director, interact with the staff and various users of the service. A meeting has been scheduled with the presidents and representatives of the major student associations. Ms. Fortier commented that a "mini-survey" had been conducted at the Festival which asked two questions: did you know about Student Services?; have you used Student Services? Over 500 people participated in the survey and the feedback received was very interesting. A more extensive survey will be carried out for the Committee at a later date.
3. Approval of the Minutes of 18 November 1994: On a motion by Ms. Kerby, seconded by Mr. Côté, the minutes were approved.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Dr. Bonin told Council that the shelving situation was dealt with before the Christmas break and hasn't reoccurred. The signage at the Vanier Library was checked and temporary signs were installed. The terminals on the 4th floor of the Webster Library continue to be an on-going problem. Computing Services are working to rectify the situation.

5. Report from the Planning & Resources Committee: Mr. Zarins and Mr. Leibu, Co-chairs of the Committee, presented a verbal report. The Committee met on 13 January 1995 and discussed the following three issues: 1) teaching evaluations - the Chair of CCSL will invite Dr. A. Hochstein, Associate Vice-Rector, Academic, to address Council on this issue; 2) Student Bill of Rights - Ms. A. Flynn will address Council at the March meeting; 3) the residence issue - in what forum can the discussions be held on residences and the future of Hingston Hall?

The Chair responded to 1 and 3: 1) Dr. Hochstein has been invited to attend the February meeting to discuss quality of teaching; 3) Dr. Bertrand has said that any discussion on the viability of Hingston Hall would be held in part at CCSL and would be open to student consultation.

Ms. Kerby requested that the minutes indicate that Council acknowledges the response on the international student interest fee question.

6. Student Life Issues: Dr. Barlow tabled a written memorandum responding to the concerns raised at the November meeting of Council. In addition, he gave a verbal update on certain issues. A telephone has been installed in the atrium of the McConnell and signage installed to indicate that the phone is to be used to report problems to the work-control centre.

Ms. Grimes, Dr. Bonin, and Mr. Counihan addressed the topic. It was asked why a terminal couldn't be used, since it has been found to be quite effective in the Library to register feedback. Dr. Barlow said that he will examine the feasibility of this suggestion.

Dr. Barlow continued his report by saying that disabled access to the Hall Building entrance door closest to the security desk is scheduled to be installed in the spring.

Escalators - the possibility of installing more prominent signage is being examined, perhaps similar to what is displayed on the metro escalators, over the emergency stop button.

Mr. Leibu was informed that the request to move the shuttle bus stop to the front of the Campus Centre poses some difficulties. There is limited maneuverability for the buses in this area; impinges on a fire-lane and the daycare entrance. The response from Transportation has been negative. The space in front of Highston Hall has been considered; but since the idea of moving the stop in front of the Campus Centre is not feasible, Dr. Barlow asked for further suggestions from Council. He asked that members keep in mind that shelters have been examined and the installation has proven to be impractical; as well, the bus schedule must be maintained.



Ms. Fortier was informed that the city blocks the installation of any shelter in front of a historical building. And Mr. Counihan was told temporary shelters just were neither safe nor practical.

Dr. Boisvert suggested that perhaps a "brain-storming" group could be formed to address the on-going escalator frustrations. Dr. Barlow agreed that it would be a good idea, and asked for creative ideas for traffic circulation. Ms. Grimes asked if repairs would be carried out this summer - Dr. Barlow will check.

Ms. Grimes and Mr. Leiby asked about 24-hour study space in the lobby or on the mezzanine of the Hall Building, or the atrium of the McConnell Building. Dr. Barlow explained the problems faced with keeping any space open for 24 hours, i.e., cleaning schedules, security. Ms. Kerby, Ms. Fortier, Dr. Bonin and Dr. Alfred spoke in favour of the need for this type of space where group interaction could occur on a 24 hour basis.

The Axworthy proposal was discussed. Ms Grimes reminded members of the National Day of Action, 25 January and the scheduled student strike. The Chair asked that a copy of the CSU brief to the Axworthy committee be forwarded to the Secretary of Senate. Appreciation was expressed by the students for Mr. Côté's assistance in preparing the brief. Ms. Kerby was informed that CREPUQ has not taken a position on the proposal and the University will follow their lead.

Mr. Leiby asked that CCSL be very vigilant in protecting services to students once the discussion of the \$5 million cuts to be made next year begin. Dr. Boisvert cautioned that CCSL doesn't want to give up control of their (Student Services) budget.

Mr. Smart pointed out that the dropping enrolment figures will have a serious impact on CCSL's budget anyway. He went on to express his concern at the trend he sees developing in decreasing enrolment. The fall-out of the Axworthy proposal appears to be the sending of the message that a university education is expensive and will become more expensive. He said that Ontario has already experienced a drastic decrease in applications. He said that he wouldn't be surprised if the approach to recruiting won't be, "yes, university education is expensive, but not as expensive as staying at home".

Mr. Smart told Mr. Côté that he would provide figures on the decreasing enrolment trend for the next meeting. He also said that he has examined outside data, specifically as it applies to technical and training schools, and the information is mixed. It is obvious though that the application pool is shrinking. He confirmed to Dr. Graub that the figures he is using are very accurate, and told Ms. Kerby that plans are developed every year to aid in recruitment.

Ms. Grimes, under miscellaneous, thanked Mr. Macdonald for having another microwave installed in the cafeteria. The Chair suggested that she speak with Mr. Macdonald directly regarding recycling.

**Bookstore** - Ms. Lipscombe said that she would have a financial statement ready within two weeks. She informed Council that professors are not leaving new editions of their textbooks at the Library.

Dr. Bonin said that he made a special appeal to Engineering and Computing Science but that it had no impact. He suggested an appeal from CCSL might be more effective. Ms. Lipscombe suggested that one approach could be to ask faculty to put their textbooks on reserve. Dr. Barlow suggested that the Chair contact the Chair's Caucus to have them advise their departments of CCSL's concerns. Dr. Bonin, in consultation with Ms. Lipscombe and Mr. Smart, will provide a list to Mr. Leiby of textbooks from Engineering & Computing Science which are not presently available at the Library.

Ms. Grimes and Dr. Boisvert discussed the funding of the Model U.N. and the Chair suggested that Ms. Grimes table her proposal on how to fund student groups to the Planning and Resources Committee for discussion.

Mr. Leiby asked how the current hiring freeze will affect Student Services. The Chair said that the freeze applies to everyone, including Student Services, and any new hires or replacements have to be argued to the Office of the Rector on a case-by-case basis. Dr. Barlow pointed out that if a position is currently listed as vacant, the money will be removed; this will affect contract positions.

7. Report from the Directors: Following a recommendation by the Planning & Resources Committee, the written reports were previously distributed to the members of Council. Ms. A. Kerby, Director of Advocacy & Support Services, gave a verbal report on her area.

In an effort to improve communication and representation of students, Ms. Kerby met with Ms. A. Flynn of CSU to discuss how Advocacy could help in this area. The Student Services Festival was a success and highlighted the need for personal contact, and the need to discover a way to find out what the issues are and how to address them.

Ms. Kerby explained that the budget for the area was on-track, then proceeded to give a brief outline of each of the reporting units of the department.

**Service for Disabled Students:** Due to the increase in full-time disabled students, the staff presently finds most of its energies are directed towards



their clients' special exam needs. The Registrar pays for invigilators for the area but the entire issue has to be examined.

Thanks to the assistance of Dr. Bonin, a brochure outlining the library services provided for disabled students has been prepared.

**International Students Office:** Ms. Kerby reported an increase in international students.

**Campus Ministry:** The Spirit of Christmas food drive netted \$8,000.

**Advocacy:** Among other things, assisting students with academic complaints to get through the red-tape. Have prepared a booklet on academic misconduct.

**Daycares:** The University has an "arms-length" relationship with the Daycares. There is a waiting list, and figures will be examined to ascertain how many of the children have parents who are students at the University.

**Legal Information Services:** This area proved very popular at the Festival, and has increased its service substantially this year.

**Women's Centre:** Ms. E. Paradis is currently in charge of the centre.

Conclusion: The area has had a very active year in the defense and lobbying on behalf of students.

**Questions:** Mr. Smart was informed that the brochure prepared on academic misconduct was a process guide to inform students on what to do when a charge has been laid.

Mr. Leibu asked if any revenue was generated by the area, and was informed that no, money coming in was transferred from the other University departments.

The problems previously experienced in the Women's Centre have been resolved.

The Daycare report has not been completed and will have to be re-examined. Mr. Leibu asked that a summary of problems be tabled at the next meeting and this was agreed to.

He asked if Legal Information could publish a rough guide on the most common legal problems that students face and how to either avoid or deal with them.

He also asked that a status report on the Gay and Lesbian Task Force be tabled.

Mr. Leiby requested a update on the Personal Safety Audit and was informed that it was underway and on schedule. It is foreseen by the coordinator, Ms. K. McDonald, as a year-long project.

8. Other Business: The document A Proposal for Awarding Credit for Para-Academic Activity was tabled for discussion by Mr. Counihan and Dr. Alfred.

The proposal is that a student could apply for para-academic credit on any activity that is not presently offered within a department, but which has a research component. The report can be either written, video, performance, and must be able to be evaluated by a faculty member. A board of review, consisting of two faculty, two students and a chair would review and approve the proposed project. An appointed sponsor would do evaluation and produce a grade. Dr. Alfred acknowledged that the initial request from CCSL was for a broader interpretation of para-academic credit, and this was the compromise that was reached with the student representatives that will also have a better change of being accepted by the faculty.

The following motion was tabled by Mr. Counihan and seconded by Ms. Grimes:

That the Concordia Council on Student Life adopt the proposal for awarding credit for para-academic activity and recommend it to Senate for implementation in the fall of 1995.

Mr. Smart had a number of questions regarding clarification and implementation. He was informed that initially it would be for 3 credits; normal tuition costs would be incurred; independent students would not be excluded; students would have to register and grades would have to be submitted within the normal cycle; the topic can be put on the transcripts if the student requests it. He also recommended that the proposal go to both Senate and the APC simultaneously.

The Chair asked if the Registrar had any difficulties with any of the plans for the awarding of para-academic credit. He had none.

Mr. Leiby requested further clarification and Mr. Counihan replied that a basic guideline would be that any project would have to follow all the regulations that apply to any course. Dr. Alfred advised Ms. Fortier that the reason the proposal was modified so extensively from the original request was to try and circumvent any faculty resistance.



In the continuing discussion, Ms. Torbit, Mr. Côté, Ms. Grimes, Mr. Counihan, Mr. Cambridge, Mr. Leib, Mr. Smart, Dr. Barlow, Dr. Alfred, Dr. Graub and Dr. Boisvert expressed opinions and clarifications. Issues discussed included: clarification of the initial proposal, which was reward for students who volunteer their time for student government. The student representatives agreed that this was their understanding. Dr. Alfred acknowledged that this was the premise that Mr. Elison and Mr. Zacharias were operating under as well, and what they have tabled is the compromise that was reached. The faculty will not agree to award 3 free credits for non-academic projects. The need for having a faculty member as sponsor was also questioned, when the expertise in the project may be held by a non-academic person. Dr. Alfred agreed that Mr. Leib had legitimate points, but he said that academic credit is not the way to reward students involved in student government. The difference between this project and independent studies is this project would encompass activities that wouldn't be considered academic but a faculty member would supervise and grade.

The motion was changed to read "...recommend to the Senate Steering Committee" with no objection by Mr. Counihan or Ms. Grimes.

The motion, once amended, was approved unanimously.

**b) CCSL Awards:** Mr. Counihan made his annual request for nominations for the awards which include: media, merit awards and excellence in teaching. An ad-hoc committee to review nominations and make final selections was established as follows:

Ms. M. Bocovi	undergraduate
Ms. J. Murray	undergraduate
Dr. G. Alfred	faculty representative
Ms. D. Cooper	student services representative graduate student

**c) Director of Alumni Affairs:** A motion by Mr. Leib, seconded by Ms. Grimes, was proposed to invite Ms. A. Vroom, Director of Alumni Affairs, to become a permanent observer to CCSL.

Mr. Leib explained that recently a lunch was held with the student association presidents and the Office of Alumni Affairs to discuss the lack of communication between the student body and Alumni.

The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Next Meeting: The next meeting of CCSL will be held **Friday, 17 January 1995, at 10:00 a.m. in the AD building, Loyola Campus, Room 131.**

10. Termination of Meeting: On a motion by Ms. Fortier, seconded by Mr. Cambridge, the meeting terminated at 12:30 p.m.